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**In the specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 23 of page 16 with the following paragraph:

*— Fig. 8A is a partial elevation view of a stem 802 and sleeve 804, forming pair 800, used in an open-head stopper assembly and inserted into an annular opening 701 according to another embodiment of the present invention. In Fig. 8A shows the assembly in a relaxed position such that opening 701 is not sealed.—*